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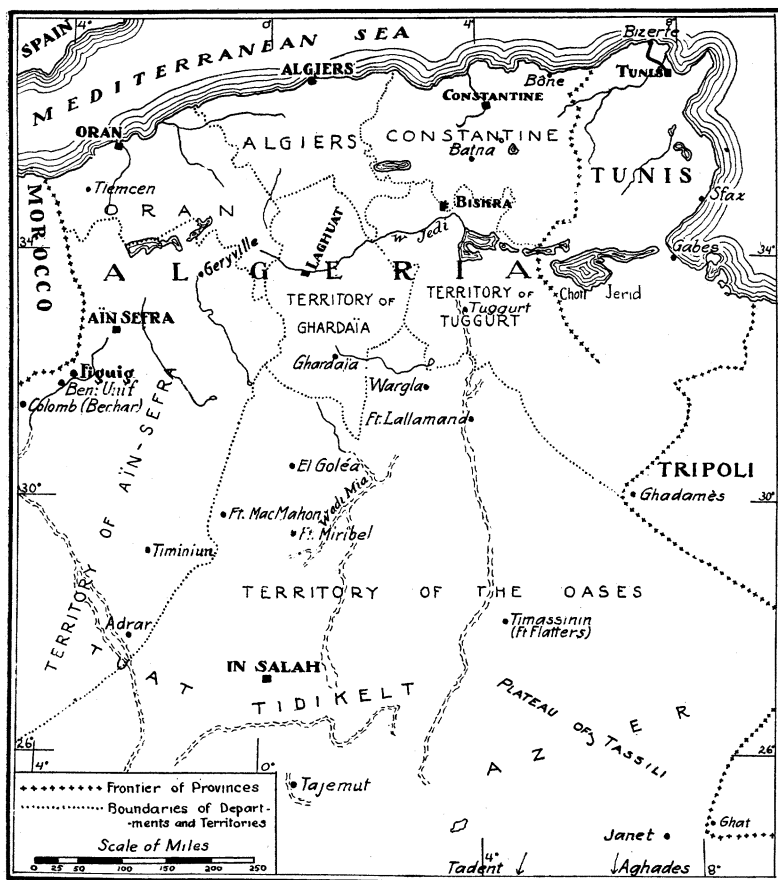
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## PROGRESS IN THE ALGERIAN SAHARA.

The French have been organizing territorial governments in the Sahara south of Algeria. Many facts relating to progress in this portion of the desert are given in *A Travers le Monde* (Nov. 2, 1907), with a map showing the boundaries of the new territories.



FRENCH TERRITORIES IN THE SAHARA.

This map has been used in making our sketch map. It should be understood that the new territories include the oases at Biskra, Wady Rhir and other places that have long had important development.

The Sahara to the south of Algeria has been divided into four

territories : Aïn Sefra, with the town of the same name as its administrative centre ; Ghardaïa, capital, Laghouat ; Tuggurt, capital Biskra ; and the much larger region south of these territories has been organized as the Territory of the Oases with In Salah as capital.

The census of the entire region included in these territories was taken at the same time with the Algerian census, in 1906. The population numbers about 446,000 persons, including 2,644 Europeans. This is about 81,000 more inhabitants than the region is said to have contained in 1901. The extension of the railroad to Béchar and the building of the new towns of Colomb and Beni Ounif have attracted many European traders and others. The chief reason for the growth of the native population is that the free medical dispensaries which the Government has opened at every post have attracted many natives who have made new homes within easy reach of modern medical aid.

The Government of Algeria began in 1905 to establish Sociétés de Prévoyance, whose mission is to suggest and carry out measures for improving the condition of the natives. In 1906 there were nine of these societies. They supplied an adequate amount of grain to the oases to use as seed after the bad season of 1905, have to some extent reformed usurious rates of interest and have opened forty-three public schools in the oases. The book instruction is merely elementary. The constant effort is to accustom the pupils to habits of neatness and order and to teach them how to use labour-saving implements and the best methods of tilling the soil in the oases. These schools are doing well. All the pupils are taught to speak the French language. In addition to these elementary schools, a few others give somewhat more advanced instruction in arithmetic, geography, and history.

Meanwhile, great progress has been made in studying the resources of the territories. It is found that the oases are giving pasturage to about 1,500,000 sheep, 500,000 goats, nearly 100,000 camels, and 15,000 cattle. Grain raising is an accessory industry, but cereals cannot supplant dates as the chief crop. The date is the basis of food and the chief agricultural export. At present there is no trade between the oases and the Sudan, but it is expected that this trade will be revived.